

NWCG CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER #42
Emergency Landing Positions For Aircraft Passengers
November 15, 2002

DROPPED
1/15/03

BACKGROUND

Agencies and aviation training material and/or courses are not describing the same emergency landing positions for aircraft passengers and this has become confusing.

Presently the following courses are being revised:

S-270 Basic Air Operations

S-271 Helicopter Crewmember (replaces S-217 Interagency Helicopter Training Guide)

S-372 Helicopter Manager

The S-270 SMEs are requesting guidance on the proper emergency landing procedures so consistency can be achieved in the above courses.

CURRENT STATUS

The present emergency landing procedures identified in S-270, S-271, and the Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide (IHOG) are as follows:

Front seat occupant with shoulder harness

- Sit in upright position
- Chin down
- Arms crossed
- Hold onto shoulder straps
- Prepare for impact

Rear seat occupant facing forward or sideways

- Bend at the waist
- Tuck head between legs
- Wrap arms around back of knees
- Prepare for impact

Rear seat occupant facing rear

- Sit in upright position
- Chin down
- Elbows locked
- Hands clasping knees
- Prepare for impact

The present emergency landing procedures, particularly for helicopters assumes only front seat passengers will have shoulder harnesses.

The Department of Transportation through the Federal Aviation Administration has issued a final rule in 14 CFR Parts 21, 27, 29, and 91 (see attached copy).

Summary: This final rule amends the airworthiness and operating regulations to require installation and use of shoulder harnesses at all seats of rotorcraft manufactured after September 16, 1992. These amendments respond to a safety recommendation from the National Transportation Safety Board and are intended to enhance protection of occupants in rotorcraft.

Effective date: September 16, 1991.

Compliance date: September 16, 1992.

With shoulder harnesses installed at all seats in a helicopter it would not be prudent for rear seat occupants facing forward or sideways to bend at the waist.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The S-270 SMEs are requesting the Safety and Health Working Team to reevaluate the aircraft emergency landing procedures. The SMEs recommend adopting Bell Helicopter's Operations Safety Notice, dated June 27, 1980 (see attached copy) for all federal agency passengers in airplanes and helicopters.

The S-270 development project leader has discussed the emergency landing procedures issue with the Chairman of the IHOG Committee (Kevin Hamilton), and Les Herman with OAS. Les discussed this issue with OAS safety personnel. They all recommend adopting Bell Helicopter's Operations Safety Notice.

Bell Helicopter's recommended procedures are as follows:

Seats with lap belts only

Passengers should lean over until their chest rests on their thighs. Their arms should be clasped together under their thighs to hold this position. Front seat passengers must avoid interfering with the flight controls.

Seats with lap belts and shoulder harnesses

Occupants should sit with their backs straight and against the seat back as much as possible. If a manual inertia reel lock is available, and time and conditions permit, the inertia reel should be manually locked. Unless hands are required on the flight controls, the arms should be used to brace in the upright position.

ACTION REQUIRED

1. Acquire all federal agency approval of the above recommendation to adopt Bell Helicopter's emergency landing procedures or identify what emergency landing procedures should be followed by passengers in airplanes and helicopters. Bell Helicopter's procedures are simple and less confusing.
2. Disseminate the new passenger emergency landing procedures for airplanes and helicopters through appropriate channels.
3. Make changes to appropriate courses and publications to include the correct emergency landing procedures.

CONCURRENCE BY:

Paul R. Broyles
Paul Broyles, Safety and Health Working Team Chair

12/12/02
Date

CONCURRENCE BY:

Bernie Post, Aviation Training Committee Chair

Date

CONCURRENCE BY:

Kevin Hamilton, Interagency Helicopter Operations Policy Chair

Date

APPROVED / DENIED (circle one)

Logan Lee, Training Working Team Chair

Date

January 15, 2003

After TWT discussion and a conversation with Kevin Hamilton this IP will be dropped. This issue is being handled higher up. No decision will be made in the near future. Therefore both the 5-130 and 5-270 courses should be generic and say something to the effect of following pilot and mgr instructions.

*Dep
EAP
1/30/03*